1: Roth--2 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 726, 177, 161

"The first aborigine killed was shot by one of Marion's party during a misunderstanding, and we have no record of any further fatal meeting between the aborigines and Europeans until 1804, about twelve months after the first European settlement was formed. On this occasion a panic seemed to have seized the English, who shot down unmercifully a party of aboriginal men, women, and children, which was approaching them with every sign of friendship. In 1828 the hostilities caused by this episode had reached such a pitch that the colonists were nearly driven out of the island; but the natives, never very numerous, were already rapidly decreasing in numbers, when, in 1835, the Black War came to an end by the unconditional surrender of a few hundred of the aborigines. This wretched remnant, collected together by an energetic man named Robinson, was transferred to Flinders Island. But change of circumstances, and more especially unsuitable food, told woefully on their numbers, and when, twelve years later, these were reduced to something over forty, they were transferred to Oyster Cove, near Hobart. Here in March, 1869, William Lanney, the last Tasmanian male aborigine, died, and with the death in June, 1876, of the woman Truganina, or Lalla Rookh, the race was wiped off the face of the earth."

"'In his various reports, Robinson always maintained that this people was nothing but a remnant of the six or eight thousand who were living in 1804, and his reports of their strength he had from the most accurate sources, viz. the natives themselves (who, though they had no words to express numbers higher than units, could repeat the names of the individuals of the tribes), and thus he learned their real force, which he never rated higher than seven hundred--that is, after 1830; and year after year his estimates decreased as they died out, and he then reports five hundred, and finally three hundred or four hundred, and when he got the last of them, they had sunk to about two hundred and fifty' (Calder, Journ. p. 13). Backhouse considered there were 'probably never more than 700 to 1000' Tasmanians, 'their habits of life being unfriendly to increase' (p. 79); while Melville estimated them in 1803 at nearly 20,000 (p. 345). Whatever the original number [169] may have been, at the end of the war only 203 were captured (West, II. p. 72)."

1: Roth--169
116, 161, 177

(No date) 1890

Tasmanians

"Although it is quite useless at the present day to try to estimate the native population at the time of the advent of the Europeans, Mr. Milligan's remarks in reference to this question are well worth listening to. He says: 'When Van Diemen's Land was first occupied by Europeans... its aboriginal population, spread in tribes, subtribes, and families, over the length and breadth of the island, from Cape Portland to Port Davey, and from Oyster Bay to Macquarie Harbour; and their aggregate number at that time has been variously estimated at from 1500 to 5000. ... We receive with some allowances the higher estimates formed of the aboriginal population of this island, at or about the time of its discovery. Assuming that the number of tribes and subtribes throughout the territory was then about twenty, and that they each mustered of men, women, and children fifty to two hundred and fifty individuals, and allowing to them numbers proportioned to the means of subsistence within the limits of their respective hunting-grounds, it does not appear probable that the aggregate aboriginal population did materially, if at all, exceed 2000. For it is to be borne in mind that on the western side of the island... physical conditions most unfavourable to a natural abundance of animal life prevail; while our traditionary knowledge of the tribes... along the east and centre is sufficiently accurate to enable us to form a close approximation to their actual strength' (Milligan, Papers, etc. Roy. Soc. Tasm. III. pp. 275-276)."

"From Hull's "Statistical Summary of Tasmania," published in 1866, we extract the following concerning the numbers of the aboriginal population:

Year.		Number.	Year.		Number.
1817	---	7000 (estimated at)	1833	---	122 (a)
1824	---	340 (1)	1834	---	111
1825	---	320	1835	---	111 (b)
1826	---	320	1836	---	116
1827	---	300	1837	---	97
1828	---	280	1838	---	82 (c)
1829	---	250	1839	---	68
1830	---	225	1840	---	58
1831	---	190	1841	---	49
1832	---	176	1842	---	51 [170]

"1. This is the number of the known tribes [180 males, 160 females?]"

Year.		Number.	Year.		Number.
1847	---	48 (d)	1860	---	11 (g)
1848	---	38 (e)	1861	---	8
1854	---	16	1862	---	8
1855	---	15	1863	---	6
1856	---	16	1864	---	6 (h)
1857	---	15	1865	---	4 (i)
1858	---	14	[1869	---	1]
1859	---	14 (f)	[1877	---	nil]

(a) [It was said at this date that the proportion of males to females was 6 to 1 (Van Diemen's Land Annual, 1834, pp. 79-80)."]

(b) [Strzelecki says (pp. 352-355) that in 1835 there were at the Settlement on Flinders Island 210 natives, and in 1842 only 54. During the seven years interval between his visits only 14 children had been born.]

(c) [According to Dumont D'Urville 42 males and 40 females; and West says of this number 14 were children."]

(d) [10 children.]

(e) [12 men, 23 women, and 8 children (Barnard, Papers, Roy. Soc. of Tasmania, I.

1849, p. 105), making a total of 43.]

(f) 5 males, 9 females.

(g) 4 males, 7 females.

(h) 1 male, 5 females.

(i) All females.

The last representative of the race, a female, died in 1876."